

## THE BATTLE OF SPOTTSYLVANIA

The following account of the famous Battle of Spotsylvania, which is taken from the Magnolia News, will doubtless prove very interesting to readers of The Dispatch, as several Columbians participated in the fight. The regiment of which the late Dr. F. H. Ervin was surgeon was in the fray, and Mr. John Alexander, who is now a citizen of Columbus, was also engaged in the fight:

On the morning of the 12th day of May, 1864, Harris' Mississippi brigade had slept on the side of the road in the mud. Just when it became bright enough to see fairly well a courier rode up and asked in an excited way, "Where is Gen. Harris?" Gen. Harris said, "Here I am." He said, "Attention; fall in line." The cans of mush on the fire were snatched up, guns and accoutrements were buckled on, and in five minutes the brigade was going down the road at a double quick. Soon they came within sound of musketry. Pretty soon they saw wounded men being brought out, and learned that Johnston's brigade, which had occupied the angle at Spotsylvania, had given way and the Confederate line broken. Soon the brigade was halted between a fierce artillery duel, and every man with the instinct of a soldier lay flat on the ground.

It was then Gen. Lee came riding up, accompanied by his staff, and as he struck the head of our brigade a shell passed over his body of attendants, killing a horse and wounding one of his staff. The soldiers crowded around Gen. Lee, filled with the deepest love and admiration. He rode out toward us, a little from his staff, and we saw that he was going to speak: "Men of Harris' brigade, on you today depends the fate of the Army of Northern Virginia; the line is broken; we must retake the works. I myself will lead you in the charge."

The soldiers gave a yell. Right at the head of Gen. Lee's horse stood Bill Compton, his gun strapped across his back; with his left hand he grabbed the bridle of Gen. Lee's horse and with his right he waved his cap and said, "Gen. Lee, your life is of more value than all of ours put together. Can't you trust us?"

Gen. Lee said, "Yes, I trust you; go, and may God be with you."

Gen. Harris then gave the command, "Fall in line! Forward!" Word was passed rapidly, and in a few moments Harris' brigade swung over the hill, through the smoke of battle and the falling rain in a determined charge.

We pressed forward, not knowing the country at all, or where we were to meet the enemy; and as we came up through a field to a strip of woods a tremendous volley was fired at us. Nine men in Company C, which was the extreme left of the regiment, fell dead. There was almost equal fatality throughout the Sixteenth Mississippi. Seven men were killed in Company K, but with the words of Gen. Lee ringing in our ears, we raised a yell and rushed right at the enemy. They attempted to stand at the breastworks, but our fire was so deadly and our charges so determined that they fell back, and we took the position.

We had hardly time to throw the dead out of the ditch and lay the wounded back of the ditch, when, with a huzzah, the enemy charged to retake the works.

The breastworks were slippery and muddy, and the ditch was over ankle deep in mud. With splendid courage the Federal soldiers climbed up the slippery embankment, only to meet death from the guns and bayonets of the Confederates. The Federal line seemed to evaporate.

It was only a short distance from the breastworks to the decline of the hill, and under that cover the Federal line was reformed. By the time that we had succeeded in loading our guns and the guns of our fallen comrades they were back at us again.

The battle flag of the Sixteenth Mississippi was right in the angle of the salient. The enemy scrambled up the embankment and planted the United States flag and the flag of New York right on the top of the embankment, but the man that held the Confederate flag did not move an inch. The Federal and Confederate flags flapped together, but not a man was left living around the Federal battle flag; and the Confederates pushed over the dead.

Eight times the Federals picked up their flags and endeavored to place them on the top of the breastworks, and eight times the determined men

were killed and the flags pushed over. The Confederate flag was in the hands of the third man who had borne it that day, and he was wounded in the arm.

The Federal line fell back over the hill, and we had a moment's time to load all of the guns of fallen comrades and of the Federals, and to throw the dead and wounded out of the ditch.

In another desperate charge many of the Federals rushed over the breastworks, down into the ditch among us, and there was a hand-to-hand fight.

Major Council ordered the men to fall back on the right and left and let the enemy have the trais. We fell back and they poured into the vacant space only to receive certain death. Then Major Council ordered the men to take their places; from the right and from the left we came back into the trais.

By this time the blood had become so profuse that, tramping back and forth in it, we were smeared with human blood from our faces to our feet. The flag of our regiment had been shot completely off its staff, and one of the men picked up a limb from a white oak tree, which had been cut off by bullets, fastened the flag to it, and held it up again in its original position in the salient.

Then somebody asked, "Where is Col. Baker?" He was near by, lying under an oak tree, a little in the rear of the breastworks, shot through the heart.

"Where is Lieut. Col. Feltus?" He was by the side of Baker, also shot through the heart.

Major Council, who had been third in command when the fight opened, was now colonel of the regiment. He was wounded.

The enemy now adopted different tactics. A line of battle moved up over the brow of the hill and lay down upon the ground in front, not more than fifty yards off, and opened up a terrific fire.

Just behind the ranks of the Sixteenth Mississippi regiment was a white oak tree, about two feet in diameter, solid within and vigorous. The bullets of the enemy passed over the embankment, struck the tree, and we saw that it was only a question of time when the tree would be cut down by bullets.

All sorts of suggestions were made as to the way we might control the fall of the tree. We had no rope, nor could a man have lived in that valley of lead long enough to have tied a rope to the limb. We soon saw that the limbs were being cut off in the front, and that the weight of the branches in the rear would draw the tree from the breastworks. It slowly swayed and finally came down.

We had by this time lost nearly half of our men. Each soldier was shooting from seven to ten guns, and ammunition was passed up from hand to hand from the left. There was no lack of ammunition among the Confederates.

Then there came a singular lull in the fighting; both sides commenced to cheer; the loud, defiant huzzah of the Federals and the weird yell of the Confederates rang through the smoke of battle.

Many of us climbed to the top of the embankment to look out over the scene. O, what a sight! In some places the dead were in heaps. But the sight was nothing in comparison to the sound. The groans and moans of wounded men under dead men, the piteous cries for water, the feeble prayers of the wounded and dying, and at times the curses, made a pandemonium of horror.

An officer, evidently a captain from the Federal side, ran forward near the breastworks, waved his cap in the air, and said, "Confederates, you made a gallant defense, but it is useless; surrender." The boys began to holler, "Come in, come in." The officer said, "Are you going to surrender?" Many voices cried, "No! Never!" "If you will not surrender, neither will I." He waved his cap in the air and turned to go, but a shot from the Confederate side crashed through his brain, and he was so close we could see the hair fly.

The Confederates scrambled into the ditch just in time to save themselves from a volley, and the Federal line charged again. There was a terrific struggle. A second line came up to the assistance of the first, and it seemed for a time that we would be overpowered, but so deadly was the fire from the Confederate side, so close the range, that, with the advantage of being behind the embankment, we saw the gallant Federal line melt away.

The soldier who had killed the officer was asked why he had shot so gallant a man and he replied that the officer would surely have reported how weak our forces were, which would have inspired his men with fresh determination to again take the works.

A couple of bull bats still sailed around over us and their cries had been distinctly heard above the volleys of musketry.

Night came on without any cessation in the firing, but the charges of the enemy grew less frequent and



## A Clothing Sale of Importance

ALL CONSIDERATIONS vanish before the urgent necessity of stock clearance. Our policy, followed for many years, of making a clean sweep of merchandise in mid-season has enabled us to keep an exceptionally "clean" stock with practically no hold-overs. This week we inaugurate a special sale of high-class, custom-tailored Clothes for Men and Boys; also extra trousers, values that contain more money for the purchasers than can be found to-day anywhere on earth.

Men's Suits worth \$10.00	offered you at	\$ 5.90
Men's Suits worth 12.50	offered you at	8.75
Men's Suits worth 15.00	offered you at	11.50
Men's Suits worth 17.50	offered you at	14.50
Men's Suits worth 20.00	offered you at	15.50
Boys' Suits worth \$2.50	offered you at	\$1.90
Boys' Suits worth 3.00	offered you at	2.25
Boys' Suits worth 3.50	offered you at	2.75
Boys' Suits worth 4.00	offered you at	3.20
Boys' Suits worth 5.00	offered you at	3.90

Trousers are here in abundance; the backwardness of the summer season causes us to make a big slash in the price of all extra trousers. Come in and let us prove that we are giving you the best values for the money.

## KAUFMAN BROTHERS

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY SAVERS

Sweeping Reductions in Hat Department this week

### "Squire" Holt in Custody.

Justice of the Peace Beverly Matthews is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Roy Hindsley, one of the men shot at Carbon Hill, Ala., several weeks ago, stating that "Squire" Holt, the negro who did the shooting, has been captured, and is in custody at Midway, Indian Territory.

Holt shot three men in a difficulty at Carbon Hill, Mr. Hindsley having been among the number. He made his escape, and it was reported at one time that he was in Columbus. A negro answering his description was seen here, but when placed under arrest proved to be the wrong man. Mr. Hindsley afterward heard that Holt had gone West and followed him. He was finally located in a mining camp near Midway and taken into custody. Requisition papers have been applied for, and Holt will be taken back to Alabama to stand trial.

There is more catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with the local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by druggists, 75 cents. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

I wish to inform my friends and former city and county customers that I have opened a first class retail grocery store on North Fourteenth street, where I will be glad to serve them. I will keep on hand at all times a stock of nice, clean groceries and fresh country produce. Prompt delivery and telephone service. I wish to say to my country friends and customers that I would like to have a chance to bid on their produce. W. R. McManus. 5-12-1m

Two Rooms for Rent. Rooms suitable for offices or living rooms. For further information apply to the Maer Realty Company.

## MONEY TO LEND

On City or County Real Estate. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, APPLY TO ORR & HARRIS, COLUMBUS

### For Sale.

One large dining room table, three small tables, one roll top desk, one chifonier, twenty office chairs, one mantel mirror 18x40, one porcelain tub, two showers, one boiler, one heater, one closet, one office stove, one platform scales, two stationary washstands, twelve window shades. For further information address or apply to C. F. Sherrod, Jr., city. 6-2-1f

Mr. Wm. B. Hamilton left yesterday for Baird, Miss., where he goes on a fishing trip. Mr. Hamilton is receiving the congratulations of his friends upon the splendid showing he has made with his company, the Norville-Shapleigh Hardware Company, being among the ten highest salesmen of this well known concern and wearing the badge of distinction signifying this event.

During the dull summer days is a good time to have your furniture upholstered and overhauled. Our department is in the hands of an expert whose work is guaranteed. Telephone us and we will send and make you an estimate on your job. The City Furniture Company. 6-2-1f

Mrs. W. G. Ottley, who was called to Tupelo a few days ago by the illness of her mother, Mrs. M. H. Armbrister, has returned, her mother's condition having been much improved.

Mrs. George B. Gattling has returned to the city from a visit to West Point.

### Wanted.

Two log wagons. Must be in good condition and cheap. D. H. Bryant, Jr., City. 5-26-1f

U. D. C. SATURDAY KITCHEN WITH MRS. T. B. FRANKLIN June 1st from 5 to 7 p. m.

## A Stitch in Time

Many manufacturers have experienced the terrors of a boiler explosion at their plants.

Usually they have regretted, when too late, that they did not carry Steam Boiler Insurance.

If they had, and their boilers had been regularly inspected by experienced men, such catastrophes might have been avoided.

Perhaps the boiler at YOUR plant has a weak spot. If so, and you have one of our Steam Boiler Policies, our expert inspectors will find the defect, and we'll tell you how to remedy it; WHERE TO PUT THE STITCH!

That's one of the fine features of our policies—they guarantee such inspections at regular periods.

Then, if the boiler SHOULD explode, we pay the loss; you don't.

Let us call and tell you how low the cost is.

Our Inspection Division, comprising sixty-seven inspectors, during the past year discovered the following defects in boilers insured by

## THE MARYLAND CASUALTY COMPANY

### BOILERS.

Dangerous.....	4,792
Ordinary.....	14,529
Total.....	19,321
Boilers in dangerous condition.....	157
Condemned, unfit for further use.....	82

### Boiler Defects Classified.

	TOTAL NO.	DANGEROUS.
Deposit of sediment.....	835	207
Incrustation and scale.....	2535	445
Internal corrosion.....	1280	340
External corrosion.....	1461	150
Pitting.....	1432	217
Internal grooving.....	427	110
Leaking tube ends.....	1933	516
Furnaces out of shape.....	1495	569
Fractures.....	1342	141
Water gauges out of order.....	985	294
Safety valves out of order.....	263	131
Pressure gauges out of order.....	685	176
Broken braces and stays.....	460	209
Bulges, sags or bags.....	1180	281
Unclassified defects.....	3008	1006

Are you sure that your boiler is in good condition? Will be pleased to quote rates on boilers situated either in the city or country.

## The Maryland Casualty Company

### JESSE P. WOODWARD

GENERAL INSURANCE AGENT

425 Main St. Phone 531

COLUMBUS, MISS.



Briefly sums up the qualities of our St. Regis. If style and wearing quality count for anything with you here is just the shoe you have been looking for. It is a patent colt blucher, box kid top, single sole—a shoe full of snap and dash, yet well made and durable. Price, \$4.

## KEITH'S KONQUEROR SHOES

have linings which cannot wrinkle, being moulded to the last. Popular with young men. All styles. Try a pair. You will be delighted with them.

Preston B. Keith Shoe Co., Makers, Brockton, Mass.

SOLD BY S. SELIG.

A full line of summer furniture, such as lawn swings, settees and odd pieces for the lawn and the yard. If you are going to make a purchase see this stock. The City Furniture Co.